

By this arrangement, the whole of the branches and chambers, measuring about 370 feet in length, were excavated, the powder placed in the chamber, the train laid, and the whole tamped up, and ready for explosion, on the Monday following. A coffer 13 inches cube, containing 70 lbs. of powder, was placed its own depth in each counterfort, at its junction with the scarp; and another of 12 inches cube, containing 50 lbs., was placed its own depth in the back of the scarp, equidistant from those in the adjacent counterforts.

The line of least resistance, opposite the 70 lbs., was nearly 9 feet, and opposite the 50 lbs., nearly 8 feet, and the average height of the scarp was from 21 to 25 feet.

It is not thought necessary to enter into the detail of the dimensions of the galleries, branches, &c. as the system pursued was strictly conformable to the instructions received from Chatham.

On Tuesday, the 19th of February, the Earl of Dalhousie, Governor General, and Commander of the Forces in his Majesty's North American Provinces, accompanied by his staff, and a great number of others, both civil and military, attended to witness the explosion.

The galleries being in several parts very wet, and fearing from the length of time it required to prepare the mines, that the powder in the hose might get damp, it was determined to fire the mines at the three points, 1, 2, and 3, and thereby produce a more simultaneous explosion: but the sapper stationed at No. 3, having taken the signal from the bugle where his Lordship and the spectators were stationed, instead of waiting for the repeating bugle on the spot, the whole of the mines, 20 in number, were exploded from that point.

The effect produced far surpassed the most sanguine expectations of the officers employed upon this service.

The explosion not only crumbled the escarp to pieces, without projecting a stone 50 feet from its original position, but brought down the whole of the parapet, together with its interior revetement; forming throughout the whole line a most practicable breach.

The only parts which descended in masses were the exterior revetement of the parapet, and the earth between that and the interior revetement, showing the enormous power of the intense cold in Canada, which strikes nearly four feet into the ground.

The escarp was of rubble masonry, and in an excellent state of preservation.

